

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina at Odds With Internal Fascism

By N. ANDREW N. CLEVEN

PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH;
CURRENT HISTORY ASSOCIATE

OUTSIDE of Italy itself there are few countries in which Italian Fascism has been more active than in Argentina. Nor are there many countries in which its activities have met with more determined and effective opposition. The reason for this is not hard to understand. There is not a single country throughout all South America in which the combined questions of immigration and assimilation of new peoples are more vitally important than in Argentina. The late President of Argentina, Señor Sáenz Peña, expressed a fine idea in the oft-quoted expression, "America for Humanity"; but it was an idea of relativity. Argentina is for humanity, but of a type and training acceptable to her and suitable to her type of civilization. Of the desired type of immigrants Argentina still needs a very large number. Possessing, as she does, more than 1,500,000 square miles of territory, with only about 10,000,000 inhabitants, she realizes the vital need of immigration, but she is now considering seriously the need for a selective process of immigration.

There is not a single country in South America that has drawn more heavily upon Italy for immigrants than Argentina. It is estimated that during the last seventy-five years she has received more than 2,000,000 Italian immigrants. Her problem is, therefore, a very important one and one that will tax her ingenuities. No one country is, therefore, more vitally interested in Italy's new immigration policy than Argentina.

It will be recalled that Mussolini announced, in May of the present year, a definite policy concerning these matters. He announced, in the first place, an increase in the principal officers of the Italian consular service personnel. It was to be doubled, increasing the number already in that service by 300, of which number 70 were to be consulate generals, 88 consulates, 92 vice consulates first class, and 50 hon-

orary consulates, second class. These new agents, he went on to explain, would be distributed throughout the world, although the larger number would be placed in the United States, the Mediterranean basin, France and South America. The increase in the number of the principal officers in this service is not of such great importance; it is rather the fact that they are assigned new duties. They are to concern themselves, above all else, with the *welfare of Fascismo*. They are to assume a larger control over Fascisti groups in the countries in which they serve. They are to organize these groups and place them directly under the control of diplomatic and consular agents to whom the Fascisti will render implicit obedience. More than that, they are to increase the membership of these Fascisti groups by all means within their power. If that cannot be done they must especially concern themselves with saving these millions of Italians for the mother country. They must prevent them from becoming naturalized in order that they may remain under the control of the Italian Government. Il Duce is gravely concerned about this matter, as will be seen from the following excerpts from a communiqué given to the press:

Fascismo considers that wherever there are Italians abroad there must be Italian officials representing them and to assist them to maintain their tradition, language and habits, according to the Fascists policy, to preserve for Italy every immigrated Italian. Ten million Italians abroad now look to their own country with a new spirit of confidence.

These Italians have brought to foreign countries inestimable wealth and deserve to be protected there. Italy must have a consul wherever she has enemies, and enemies of Italy are numerous in various parts of the world where Fascismo is badly understood, or not understood at all.

A policy so definitely at variance with the policy followed by most of the Governments of the world could hardly be expected to be acceptable to Argentina. The recent efforts to bomb the building housing the

new consulate in Buenos Aires were prompted by antagonism to the activities of the Italian Fascisti in that great city. Nor was the situation improved by the manner in which the Italian Ambassador to Argentina handled the matter. A very large section of the people of Argentina is opposed to the activities of the Italian Fascisti in Argentina. Argentina desires immigrants, but she wants immigrants that are of a desirable type and training.

The declaration of principle covering the status of aliens made by Dr. Pueyrredón at the Havana Conference has an important bearing on this whole question. The principle is that the national who voluntarily leaves his own country and voluntarily enters another automatically places himself under the laws, rules and practices of that country to which he came. At the same time he forfeits any claim to protection from his own country. Dr. Pueyrredón may not have spoken the voice of the rulers of his country, but there is no doubt that he spoke the voice of a large number of his own countrymen. *To this group there can be no duality of allegiance; there can be no State, or States, within a State.* This view is diametrically opposed to that of Il Duce and of his cohorts.

Another thing to be considered is the recent presidential election in Argentina. Observers of the recent presidential campaign point out that the victory of former President Irigoyen and his party was not only a very great one but it was an easy victory as well. In fact, neither the principal candidates of the Peronistas nor the party managers worked hard for the success gained. This, taken together with the well known principles and platform of Irigoyen, makes the problem of the future relation between Argentina and Fascist Italy a gravely important one. The Argentine people, enjoying as they do the most enviable position in the process of evolving a political and industrial democracy, can be counted upon to emerge victoriously in any struggle that may arise between them and Fascist Italy.

BOLIVIA—The effort to bring about a satisfactory solution of the boundary differences between Bolivia and Paraguay was attended by further delay when the

mixed Boundary Commission in session at Buenos Aires, adjourned until July 18 in order to secure further data and fresh instructions from the Governments concerned. Reports that Bolivia was mobilizing troops on the Bolivian Chaco, part of the territory in dispute, and that arms were being shipped for Bolivia via Sao Paulo were denied categorically by the Bolivian Minister in Asunción.

COLOMBIA—Two measures of importance have occupied the attention of the Government of Colombia for the past month. One is the law which went into effect June 1 controlling the sale of intoxicating drinks. The dissatisfaction expressed with the Federal Government for its failure to enforce the law from the first was keen. The fear was expressed that this failure would cause the law to be disliked, and that the whole policy inaugurated by its passage into law would be jeopardized. Others held the view that time was needed to evolve the necessary administrative machinery to handle the new situation. An important phase of the whole situation is the effect of non-enforcement upon the Government's ability to pay the interest on its foreign debts. Heretofore the tax on intoxicating drinks has helped to pay this interest. Not a few of the holders of Colombian bonds have become alarmed, fearing that the interest on these bonds will not be paid when it falls due.

The other important measure is the new law for the control of the irrigational waters of the republic. Señor Montalvo, Minister of Public Works, declared that it was not the object of the Government to deprive any one of the use of the waters of the country but rather to place them under the control of the Federal Government in order to prevent a monopoly, and hence the proposed law was an effort to equalize the use of the water power. He added that the purpose of the Government in advocating the expenditure of several millions of dollars to carry the plan through, was to give to the large agricultural industries their due share of attention. The reclamation of the semi-arid lands is a great problem and one that demands attention by the Government. How-

ever, critics maintain that the main purpose of the Government is to curb the activities of foreign concerns in Colombia, notably the United Fruit Company. This program is an example of the general plan of new Colombia to wrest the control, no matter how small, from foreign hands. The most important phase of this whole policy concerns the mineral deposits of the country. In this field the Government has suspended activities until the cases pending in the courts have been disposed of.

CHILE—The sinking on July 6 of the Chilean transport *Angamos*, in which 291 lives were lost and only four were saved, was a tragic event caused by a storm which drove the ship ashore and battered it to pieces among the rocks. When, in response to a faint wireless signal, near-by ships arrived on the scene of the disaster off the Southern coast of Chile, no trace of wreckage could be found, and only four survivors were picked up. According to these, the captain, seeing that he could do nothing to rescue those on board, committed suicide. The ship had sailed from Punta Arenas loaded with coal for Chilean naval vessels in northern waters. The passengers were mostly laborers and their families en route to the Chilean nitrate fields.

The resignation of William Collier, former United States Ambassador to Chile, was followed by deep expressions of regret in Chile and an unprecedented labor demonstration at Santiago in recognition of former Ambassador Collier's work in bringing about harmony and understanding between the two countries. William S. Culbertson, former Ambassador to Rumania, was appointed to succeed him.

The salient features of President Ibañez's policy were set forth recently as follows by the President in a speech to the personnel of the Chilean training corvette *Baquedano* before it sailed on a visit to New York and Philadelphia:

They will ask you about the political doctrines supported by the present Government of Chile, and I can tell you, with all the

sincerity of which my soul is capable, that my Government is of no political party; it is neither Conservative, Liberal, Radical, Democratic nor Communistic; my Government is inspired by new and modern economic-social concepts.

PERU—The arrival of Ambassador Moore in Lima, as successor to Miles Poindexter who resigned, was seized upon as an appropriate moment for comments on the Tacna-Arica question. Secretary Kellogg announced, however, that Mr. Moore was not charged with any definite instructions and that the United States Government desired to observe the strictest neutrality in the whole matter.

An air service is contemplated to connect Lima with parts of the United States and other countries. The Peruvian Government has authorized the construction of means for an air service between Lima and Panama, which will link up with the service between Panama and parts of the United States. New charters have been given to Huff Deland of the Keystone Aircraft Corporation, representing the United States; to the *Compania de Aviación Faucett*, representing the Peruvian Government, and to the *Compania Nacional de Aviación Commercial*, representing Germany. The charters to the two non-Peruvian concerns were granted on condition that the companies should have no recourse to their own national Governments in case of differences with the Peruvian nationals or Government. The Government also specified that the service should be heavily insured; that actual service should begin within the year; that all individuals engaged in the service must be considered as Peruvian nationals in all matters of law; that the Peruvian Government should have preference over all other mails; and that in case of international wars or other grave calamities the Peruvian Government should have a right to take over the whole concern. The companies are to do a mail, passenger and freight service. In return these companies receive the right of preference over all air service established hereafter.

